

Educating America's youth is an investment in our nation's future, and it is imperative that all students have access to quality education. By equipping our students with the tools needed to become successful employers and employees, we fuel technological innovation, wealth creation, and economic growth.

Again, congratulations to Orange County Public Schools for being chosen as a winner of the 2014 Broad Prize. I sincerely appreciate their leadership and dedication to educating the students of Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEE LEARNING WEEK—DECEMBER 1–5, 2014

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Employee Learning Week, which will be celebrated the week of December 1–5, 2014. A national campaign, Employee Learning Week strives to emphasize the importance of the link between employee education and achieving exceptional results within an organization.

Established by the American Society for Training & Development, the campaign brings awareness to the necessity of professional training and workplace education for employees and organizations alike. Each year, Employee Learning Week recognizes and lessens the growing skills gap in today's highly competitive economy. An important facet of Employee Learning Week, the Niagara Frontier Chapter is an independently-incorporated, nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Society for Training & Development.

With over 140 members hailing from diverse industries across the region, the chapter has been successful in making a meaningful difference in the area of professional growth.

Through these efforts, the Niagara Frontier Chapter has demonstrated a significant commitment to developing the region's workforce, a noble investment in Western New York's economy. Mr. Speaker, please join me in identifying December 1–5, 2014, as Employee Learning Week, and congratulating the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development on their endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the National Institutes of Health and the vital importance of continued investment in medical research. The National Institutes of Health is one of the world's leading medical research centers and represents our best hope for improving treatments and finding cures for diseases that affect millions of Americans.

Today, more than 30 million Americans suffer from rare or incurable diseases. The research conducted by the National Institutes of Health is critical for success in the fight

against these diseases. Particularly troubling among these is Alzheimer's disease, for which there are no preventative measures, palliative treatments, or cure. While we have seen reduced incidence of some common diseases—like heart disease and some cancers—deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased over the last 30 years.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease affects more than five million Americans. Families suffer both financially and emotionally as they care for loved ones with the disease, and it places a staggering burden on our health care system at a cost of over \$200 billion per year. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 270,000 seniors suffer from Alzheimer's—13 percent of all senior citizens in the state of Pennsylvania. These numbers only underscore the importance of investing in public health research, which might yield valuable treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, continued support for the National Institutes of Health is a critical step in meeting the health care challenges currently facing our nation. I urge my colleagues to consider the far-reaching and long-term benefits of investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health and the positive effect it will have on our nation's health and economy.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In FY14, the Arts Council awarded over \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances and 2,600 arts programs which were attended by more than 1 million people. In addition, The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been a strong supporter and sponsor of the 11th Congressional District High School Arts Competition and has been instrumental in making this program one of the most successful in the nation.

The Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Impact Award, the Arts Education Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Arts Awards Recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: The 2014 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Bill Reeder and Richard Kamenitzer of George

Mason University. Together they have built one of the nation's most respected higher education programs for the arts and arts management, training hundreds of artists and arts administrators, helping young professionals create new arts programs, and sustaining local arts organizations in Fairfax communities.

The 2014 Arts Impact Award will be presented to the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Over the past 40 years, GRACE has enriched the Reston community with art exhibitions, arts education programs, and the annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, which has become one of the region's largest arts festivals with tens of thousands of attendees. Since its inception in 1974, GRACE has mounted more than 250 exhibitions, presenting the work of local, regional, and national artists.

The 2014 Arts Education Award will be presented to Cappies of the National Capital Area (Cappies NCA) for its innovation and impact in arts education. Cappies—the Critics and Awards Program—engages high school students in a comprehensive theatre education program. Each year, Cappies NCA involves approximately 3,200 students from 56 schools as theatrical performers, production managers and technicians, and critics. Since its inception in 1999, thousands of high school students have experienced the breadth and depth of the theatre, with many becoming actors, theatre professionals, arts educators, and journalists.

The 2014 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Pat and Steve Macintyre for their outstanding support of initiatives that strengthen the arts in Herndon and Reston. Through their generosity over the past three decades the Macintyres have founded or supported organizations including the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts, Council for the Arts of Herndon, League of Reston Artists, Initiative for Public Art—Reston, Herndon's Art in Public Places initiative, and Technology and the Arts scholarships. Additionally, Pat has served on the boards of many of these organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

URGING SUPPORT FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUNDING

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the inclusion of additional funding for Alzheimer's research in the National Institute of Health's (NIH) budget. This disease affects over 5 million Americans, and every 67 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's. The impact on these patients and their families is immense, and Congress must act now to ensure needed funding is available to researchers working to better understand, treat, and cure Alzheimer's.

As the Appropriations Committee drafts spending legislation for the current fiscal year, it is critical that the NIH budget include an additional \$200 million for Alzheimer's research.